

Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2015



**WELSH
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PANEL**



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Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2015

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Introduction

This is the sixteenth annual report of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce species in Wales in 2015.

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2015	2	5	2	9	15	13	46	92
2014	1	13	14	11	18	42	73	172
2013	2	11	5	12	14	41	45	130
2012	0	5	4	17	37	49	35	147
2011	0	4	9	10	30	26	72	151
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	70	137

2015 wasn't as fruitful as any in the last six years but still produced some major rarities, including the 1st Welsh records of Cedar Waxwing & Cretzschmar's Bunting, 2nd Swanson's Thrush, 3rd Red-flanked Bluetail and 5th Great Spotted Cuckoo. Added to that was the 1st confirmed breeding of Iberian Chiffchaff in Britain. So the year wasn't that bad after all !

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new BOU British List (2016) and includes all those records assessed by the WRP along with those accepted by BBRC (shown in *italics*). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders of all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WRP welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence but this ideally should be accompanied by supporting evidence. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other species to assess from County Recorders and Editors. These are not detailed in this report.

WRP would like to thank everyone who submitted records, all the photographers, the County Recorders and everyone else who has helped in the assessment process.

Scarce species (assessed by WRP) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. As of 1st January 2015 the full list of species which WRP considers is as follows:

Bean Goose	American Wigeon	Green-winged Teal	Ring-necked Duck
Ferruginous Duck	Surf Scoter	Lesser Scaup	White-billed Diver
Cory's Shearwater	Great Shearwater	Wilson's Petrel	Night Heron
Cattle Egret	Purple Heron	White Stork	Glossy Ibis
Black Kite	Montagu's Harrier	Rough-legged Buzzard	White-tailed Eagle
Golden Eagle	Red-footed Falcon	Corncrake	Spotted Crake
Crane	Stone-Curlew	American Golden Plover	Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint	White-rumped Sandpiper	Pectoral Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope	Ring-billed Gull	Caspian Gull	White-winged Black Tern
Alpine Swift	Bee-eater	Golden Oriole	Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike	Bearded Tit	Short-toed Lark	Shore Lark
Red-rumped Swallow	Greenish Warbler	Dusky Warbler	Radde's Warbler
Pallas's Warbler	Barred Warbler	Icterine Warbler	Melodious Warbler
Aquatic Warbler	Marsh Warbler	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Rose-coloured Starling
Nightingale	Bluethroat	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Penduline Tit
Citrine Wagtail	Tawny Pipit	Olive-backed Pipit	Serin
Common Redpoll	Arctic Redpoll	Common Rosefinch	Corn Bunting
Girl Bunting	Ortolan Bunting	Rustic Bunting	Little Bunting

As of 1st January 2017 Red-necked Grebe and Smew will be added to WRP following a period of decline in Wales.

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (i.e. all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some case the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WRP welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen.

BBRC have requested submission of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, *British Birds* 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WRP will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WRP would like to receive reports are:

Black Brant Goose – <i>nigricans</i>	Iceland Gull – <i>kumlieni</i>	Common Guillemot – <i>hyperborea</i>
Razorbill – <i>torda</i>	Little Auk – <i>polaris</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker – <i>major</i>
Grey-headed Wagtail – <i>thunbergi</i>	Siberian Chiffchaff – <i>tristis</i>	Treecreeper – <i>familiaris</i>
Coal Tit – <i>ater</i>	Jay – <i>glandarius</i>	Jackdaw – <i>monedula</i>
Redpolls – <i>islandica</i> / <i>rostrata</i>	Bullfinch – <i>pyrrhula</i>	

In the systematic list the figures following each species / race name refer to the number of accepted individuals in Wales up to 1991 [included in Birds in Wales (Lovegrove et al)], since 1991 but not including 2015 and finally the number this year. Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases to improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras.

The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his /her name is included in *italics*) and are included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and also the observer's commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.

The Panel consists of six voting members, in 2015 they were: Reg Thorpe (Chairman) – Caernarfon, Mike Powell – E. Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Anglesey, Marc Hipkin - Gower, Richard Dobbins - Pembroke, Steve Stansfield - Bardsey and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green - Ceredigion. The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. WRP is always on the lookout for new members, anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WRP Secretary. During this year Reg Thorpe retired as Chairman after 20 years at the helm, having been instrumental to its set up. Many thanks for all his hard work over the years, his input and experience will be missed. His role as Chairman has been replaced by Steve Stansfield and the vacant role of panel member by Chris Jones from Denbigh.

Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WRP species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WRP description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WRP Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan. Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561)**. The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs of electronic form, either on disc or by e-mail: welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk

Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pended for information are found in appendix 1.

Systematic List of Accepted Records in 2015

Bean Goose (- , 19, 3)

Anser fabalis

Gwydd y Llafur

Breeds in the Arctic and colder boreal zones. Range has contracted in Norway and Sweden in recent times.

Denbigh: two, RSPB Conwy on 17th Jan (H. Cook).

Ceredigion: Dyfi Estuary, 24th Jan – 15th Mar (A. Jones et al).

Green-winged Teal (10, 38, 2)

Anas carolinensis

Corhwyaden Asgell - Werdd

Breeds in North America. Only males accepted to date.

2015 Pembroke: Hook on 21st Feb (DJ Astins).

2015 Caernarfon: Afon Seiont, 22nd Feb – 3rd Mar (R. Jones per R. Sandham). Photo below left.

Quite possibly the Hook bird was a returning individual, as there have been several records in the past from the same site.



Ring-necked Duck (12, 28, 2)

Aythya collaris

Hwyaden Dorchog

Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica.

Meirionnydd: male, Llyn Tegid, 8th Mar (J. Dustow).

E. Glamorgan: imm. male, Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve 20th – 31st Oct (AG Stamp), photo above right.

Lesser Scaup (0, 6, 1)

Aythya affinis

Hwyaden Benddu Leiaf

Breeds from C Alaska through Canada to Hudson Bay & S to Washington & South Dakota. Isolated populations E of Great Lakes. Winters along both coastlines of USA, in E from New Jersey to Mexico, W Indies, C. America to N Colombia.

E. Glam: male, Cosmeston Lakes / Cardiff Bay / Llanishen Res until 8th May (per County Recorder). returning 20th Oct – 3rd Nov (G. Pryce et al) then in Avon.

Brecon: Llangorse Lake, from 2014 - 25th Feb 2015, (M. Waldron et al)

Gower: female, Eglwys Nunydd Res, 1st – 3rd Nov (M. Hipkin, D. Coombs), photos below M. Hipkin.

The Gower female was the first to be assessed by WRP since this species dropped off BBRC's list.



Surf Scoter (22, 40, 0)Melanitta perspicillataMor-hwyaden yr Ewyn

Breeds northern North America, winters on the Atlantic coast, south to North Carolina.

Denbigh: six males + one female, north Wales coast from 22nd Oct 2014 remained until March 2015.Returning birds, three males there from 12th Nov (R. Sandham).

The 2014 Northeast Wales Bird Report quoted a larger number off the Denbigh coast and the panel is keen to get more information as to how many birds were involved so set the record straight.

Great Shearwater (81, 173, 2)Puffinus gravisAderyn Drycin Mawr

Late summer / autumn passage migrant that breeds in the south Atlantic.

Pembroke: singles off Strumble Head, 8th & 19th July (A. Rogers et al).**Cattle Egret (5, 37, 2+)**Bubulcus ibisCrëyr y Gwartheg

Common and widespread in S. Spain & Portugal with small expanding populations in France and Italy. Northern populations disperse outside the breeding season, mostly into Africa.

Gwent: two, Goldcliff, 27th Sept, with one remaining on 28th (T. Chinnick, C. Jones), what was presumably the other at Peterstone Gout on 28th Sept (A. Dowson).Carmarthen: WWT Penclacwydd, 29th – 30th Sept (R. Werran).E. Glam: Kenfig, 30th Sept – 4th Oct (N. Donaghy et al), photo opposite.

Quite possibly all these three records relate to the same bird, moving into then out of Wales.

**Squacco Heron (5, 3, 1)**Ardeola ralloidesCrëyr Melyn

Fragmented Western Palearctic population, centred around the Mediterranean basin. Migratory, wintering in northern tropical Africa.

Anglesey: 2nd CY, Cemlyn, 30th June (D. Wilde, D. Wright et al). Photo below left.**Purple Heron (38, 26, 1)**Ardea purpureaCrëyr Porffor

Dispersive migrant, from warmer temperate to tropical zones, southern Europe.

E. Glamorgan: Kenfig, 20th – 23rd June (N. Donaghy, photo above right by C. Woodhead).

Black Stork (5, 7, 1)*Ciconia nigra**Ciconia Du*

Breeds C. Iberia & E. France to Russia and small numbers into N. Greece & Turkey. Most are migratory, wintering Africa, S & SE Asia.

Pembroke: 3rd CY, Skomer, 25th May (T & M. Wallen).

Gower: 3rd CY, Afan Argoed Forest Park, 26th May (M. Hipkin).

E. Glam: 3rd CY, Nantyffyllon, 26th May (P. Parsons).

Gwent: 3rd CY, Coed Morgan, near Abergavenny, 26th May (J. Holmes).

All of these records presumably relate to the same bird. This was the third year in a row that one has been reported in Wales.

White Stork (- , 36, 1)*Ciconia ciconia**Ciconia Gwyn*

Migrant in warmer Boreal to warm temperate zones, USSR, China and central Europe.

Pembroke: on farmland near Solva 22nd Apr (M. Rushen).

The occurrence of this species, as with the last appears to becoming more frequent, with individuals in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and this year.

Glossy Ibis (11, 97, 2)*Plegadis falcinellus**Crymanbig Ddu*

Migrant from warm temperate and tropical zones, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East.

2015 E. Glam: Lavernock, 29th Sept (L. Middleton, J. Jones).

2015 Pemb / Cere: Teifi Marshes, 29th Dec (G. Reynolds).

2014 Anglesey: Malltraeth Marsh RSPB, 9th Oct (KG Croft).

Corn Crake (- , 51, 1)*Rex crex**Rhegen yr Yd*

Breeding bird in Britain, mainly in north & western Scotland and Ireland. Last bred in Wales in 1994.

Anglesey: Dulas, 25th May (D. Jones, M. Jones). Photo opposite.

**Spotted Crake (- , 38+, 2)***Porzana porzana**Rhegen Fraith*

Rare visitor and occasional breeder.

Pembroke: Skomer, 10th Sept (JW Moss, E. Stubbings).

Ceredigion: Teifi Marshes, 14th Sept (R. Dobbins et al).

Stone-Curlew (27, 16, 1)*Burhinus oedipnemus**Rhedwr y Moelydd*

Scarce breeding bird in southern Britain. Commoner on mainland Europe.

Gwent: Goldcliff, 23rd Apr (D. Haslam, photo opposite D. Spittle).



Kentish Plover (28, 17, 1)*Anarhynchus alexandrinus**Cwtiad Caint*

Formerly bred in the UK. Now a scarce migrant from the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe.

Ceredigion: female, Ynyslas, 5th June

(AS Pepper), photo opposite.

Yet another record from this Kentish hotspot, last one was there in 2012.

**Pectoral Sandpiper (65, 67, 2)***Calidris melanotos**Pibydd Cain*

Breeds northeast Siberia and northern North America. Winters in southern South America.

Carmarthen: WWT Penclacwydd, 11th May (E. Hunter).

Anglesey: Cemlyn, 13th May (D. Wright).

Temminck's Stint (26, 27, 2)*Calidris temminckii**Pibydd Temminick*

Breeds northern Scandinavia eastwards across northern Siberia. Winters west and central Africa and south Asia.

Gwent: Goldcliff, 25th – 28th July (T. Chinnick, M. Meehan, B. Thomas).

Denbigh: RSPB Conwy, 7th – 8th Sept (R. Sandham).

Red-necked Phalarope (37, 16, 3)*Phalaropus lobatus**Llydandroed Gyfgoch*

Rare breeder in northern Scotland.

Gwent: Goldcliff, 4th – 5th June (J. Mills).

Pembroke: two, Skokholm, 9th – 10th June (RD Brown et al). Photo below.

**Long-billed Dowitcher (5, 11, 1)***Limnodromus scolopaceus**Giach Gylfin-hir*

Breeds primarily in Arctic Siberia where range is expanding W to Lena River delta. North American range restricted to coastal tundra of W and N Alaska, and E to Mackenzie River. Migrates through USA to winter from coastal S USA to N Central America.

Pembroke: 1st CY, Skokholm 20th – 24th Sept (RD Brown et al). Photo overleaf.



Gull-billed Tern (9, 7, 1)

Gelochelidon nilotica

Morwenno! Ylfinbraff

In Europe, small population breeds N Germany. Widespread though local Spain, elsewhere colonies small & isolated. To E, breeds discontinuously from Turkey & SW Russia through Kazakhstan, Mongolia & NW China, with isolated population NE China. European population winters coastal W Africa, S to Gulf of Guinea. Asian populations winter Persian Gulf to Indian subcontinent & SE Asia. Other races occur Australia & the Americas.

2015 Ceredigion: 3rd CY, RSPB Ynysir, 2nd July (R. Jones et al).

2014 Meiri / Cere: 3rd CY, Aberdyfi 11th May (G. Griffiths), then at Ynyslas on 12th May (B. Sheils).

The 2015 individual was thought to be the same bird that was seen at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Cheshire, the following day.

Bonaparte's Gull (3, 16, 2)

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Gwylan Bonaparte

Breeds widely across N North America from W and C Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters locally on ice-free rivers and lakes in N USA, and S along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean.

E. Glamorgan: 9th CY, Cardiff Heliport, then River Taff, then Cardiff Bay, 1st Feb – 12th Apr (A. Bevan, P.

Howlett, G. N. Smith et al), presumed returning individual. Photos below.

5th CY, Cardiff Bay, 24th – 28th Mar (photo P. Howlett) again presumed returning individual.

Carmarthen: 3rd CY, WWT Penclacwydd, 3rd Feb, photo (L. Allnatt).

Gower: 3rd CY, Llanrhidian, 12th May (J. N. Edwards, M. Piercey, B. Stewart).



Ring-billed Gull (- , - , 1)Larus delawarensisGwylan Fodrwybig

Pembroke: adult, Llys y fran Res. 10th Jan – 4th Mar (DJ Astins, B. Southern), returning 31st Dec (T. Phelps).

2nd CY, Gann, 21st – 29th Mar (DJ Astins, B. Southern).

The Llys y fran bird has been returning to the same reservoir for the last four years.

Great Spotted Cuckoo (2, 2, 1)Clamator glandariusCog Frech

Breeds Spain, Portugal, S France & east to Greece. Palearctic breeders winter sub-Saharan Africa.

E. Glamorgan: 2nd CY, Cwm Cadlan, Penderyn, 15th – 17th Apr (M. Bevan et al). Photo below.

There have been only four other records in Wales, at Plas Penhelig, Aberdyfi, Meirionnydd in 1956, at Newborough, Anglesey in 1960, at Trefeiddan, St. David's, Pembroke on 10th Mar 2009 and at Penally, Pembroke 11th – 28th Mar 2014.

**Alpine Swift (27, 14, 1)**Apus affinisGwennol Ddu Fach

Breeds discontinuously in NW Africa and throughout S Europe, N to C France and Switzerland, to Ukraine. To E, breeds locally through Turkey and Caucasus to Iran, Afghanistan and N Pakistan. Winter range unknown, but assumed to be in Afrotropics or W India where separation of local populations from northern migrants not possible.

Caernarfon: Little Orme, 5th – 7th Oct (H. Cook et al).

Photo opposite.

This represents the first record in Wales since 2009.

**Bee-eater (29, 33, 3)**Merops apiasterGwybedog y Gwenyn

Scarce visitor from Mediterranean Europe.

Anglesey: two, Mariandrys, 26th June (A. Fowles).

Flint: Shotton, 20th Aug (D. Nicklin).

Golden Oriole (-, 25+, 4)*Oriolus oriolus**Euryn*

Scarce visitor from Mediterranean Europe.

2015 Pembroke: at least 4, possibly five, Skomer 11th & 12th May (JW Moss et al), photo opposite.2014 Caernarfon: imm. male on Bardsey 1st June (B. Porter)**Woodchat Shrike (67, 46, 3)***Lanius senator**Clydd Pengoch*

Breeds from France and northwest Africa east to Ukraine and southern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Pembroke: male, Ramsey, 15th – 22nd Apr (L. Morgan et al).Male, St. David's Head, 16th – 20th

Apr (K & M Young-Powell) photo opposite.

Male, Aberforest, 16th Apr (S. Berry, S. Baxter).

Remarkable series of synchronous arrival in such a small area of north Pembroke.

**Jackdaw (- , 15, 2)***Corvus monedula**Jac y do*Individuals showing characteristics of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula*, include:

Pembroke: Sealyham, January - March, (M. Young-Powell).

Caernarfon: Deganwy Golf Course, 9th Dec (R. Sandham).

The panel is not certain whether these records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether the plumage characteristics they show are within normal variation for British Jackdaws. Therefore the panel requests as many photographed records as possible to try to solve this dilemma.

Bearded Tit (- , - , 0)*Panurus biarmicus**Titw Barfog*

Resident in the UK (mainly the south East). Irruptive. Individuals have bred for the last five years at the Uskmouth reed-beds of the Newport Wetland Reserve. Due to annual dispersals, descriptions are only required by WRP for records away from Gwent & E. Glamorgan. No records were received away from these areas in 2015.

Shore Lark (- , 76, 1)*Eremophila alpestris**Ehedydd y Traeth*

Irregular winter visitor from the northern Arctic.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 30th & 31st May (S. Walton, B. Porter et al), photo overleaf by B. Porter.

First Welsh record since 2010.



Greenish Warbler (8, 13, 2)

Phylloscopus trochiloides

Telor Gwyrdd

A vagrant, breeding in E Europe and Asia.

Pembroke: Skomer 12th June (E. Stubbings et al).
Skomer, 23rd July (E. Stubbings et al).

Iberian Chiffchaff (0 , 2, 2)

Phylloscopus ibericus

Siff-saff Iberieg

Breeds locally French Pyrenees & S throughout W Iberia. N African range restricted to NW Morocco & N Algeria to NW Tunisia. Wintering range poorly known.

Gower: site withheld, pair and seven young, 15th May – 5th July (EA Hunter).

Previous Welsh records came from Gwent in 2010 and Carmarthen in 2013. This record represents the first breeding attempt of this species in Britain and the documentation in the submission to BBRC won the BBRC's Carl Zeiss Award.

Siberian Chiffchaff (- , 23, 11)

Phylloscopus collybita tristis

Scarce autumn and overwintering visitor. Range and distribution little understood but occurrences appear to be increasing.

Pembroke: Monk Haven, 2nd Jan (DJ Astins).
Trapped, Teifi Marshes, 15th Oct (Ch Jones, K. Meatyard).
Trapped, Skokholm, 23rd Oct (RD Brown), photo below left.

Caernarfon: Morfa Madryn, 20th Feb (B. Garrett).
Bardsey, 21st Apr (SD Stansfield).
Bardsey, 16th Oct (S. Walton).
Bardsey, 31st Oct (M. Carter).
Bardsey, different bird, 31st Oct (S. Walton).

Montgomery: Vyrnwy, 25th Oct (M. Haigh).
Newtown Sewage Works, 16th Dec (P. Leafe).
Another bird, Newtown Sewage Works 18th Dec (P. Leafe).



Pallas's Warbler (9, 29, 1)

Phylloscopus proregulus

Telor Gwyrdd

Breeds from southern central Siberia, east to Sea of Okhotsk, also Himalayas. Winters Himalayan foothills, northern south-east Asia.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 19th-20th Oct (S. Walton), photo above right by SD Stansfield.

Last Welsh record was from 2011, when Bardsey entertained three of these eastern sprites.

Barred Warbler (40, 56, 3)

Sylvia nisoria

Telor Rhesog

Breeds from north Italy, Germany and south Sweden eastwards to Mongolia. Winters northeast Africa south to Kenya and southern Arabia.

Pembroke: St. David's Head, 24th Sept (M. Young-Powell).

Skokholm, 24th Sept (RD Brown), photo opposite.

Gwent: Newport Wetlands Reserve, 3rd Oct (T. Chinnick).



Subalpine Warbler race undetermined

Sylvia cantillans sp

2014 Pembroke: Ramsey, 8th – 9th May (G. Morgan).

This bird could not be sub-specifically identified and therefore was assessed by WRP. Those that can be sub-specifically identified are assessed by BBRC.

Melodious Warbler (142, 73, 3)

Hippolais polyglotta

Telor Per

Breeds northeast Africa, Iberia, France, Switzerland and Italy. Winters in Africa, south of the Sahara.

2015 Pembroke: Skokholm, 15th May (RD Brown), photo opposite.

2015 Brecon: Heol Senni, 21st – 23rd June (G. Rees, VA King).

2014 Anglesey: South Stack, 31st Aug (KG Croft).

First record for Brecon.



Cedar Waxwing (0, 0, 1)

Bombycilla cedrorum

Cynffon Sidan y Cedrwydd

Breeds Canada from coastal British Columbia east to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia and in USA from SE Alaska and N California to N Alabama and N Georgia, withers throughout USA and south to Panama.

The remains of a predated bird were found at Treginnis on 27th June (C. Orgill). Accepted by BBRC as the first record for the county and Wales. Two other records in the UK at this time, one on the Isles of Scilly 2nd & 19th June and one on Tiree, Scotland on 10th June.



Rose-coloured Starling (26, 74, 1)

Sturnus roseus

Drudwen Wridog

Breeds from Hungary and Balkans east to Kazakhstan and southern Iran. Occasionally erupts west in summer. Winters in the Indian region.

2015 Gower: adult, Aberavon, 31st July – 5th Aug (A. Wood, F. Holmes, R. Anderson).

2014 Meirionnydd: adult, Llanyngwrl, 3rd June (R. Phillips).



Swainson's Thrush (1, 0 1)

Catharus ustulatus

Corffonfraith

Breeds S Alaska & Canada E to S Labrador & Newfoundland, S to N California, New Mexico, Great Lakes & West Virginia. Migrates across E USA to winter from Mexico S to NW Argentina.

Pembroke: 2nd CY, Skokholm, 2nd – 10th June (RDB et al). Photo overleaf.

This represents the second record for both Wales and Pembroke, the first being on Skokholm between 14th – 19th Oct 1967. Accepted BBRC.



Nightingale (- , 32, 1)

Luscinia megarhynchos

Eos

Rare passage migrant.

2015 Pembroke: trapped, Skokholm 27th

Apr (RD Brown), photo opposite.

2013 Radnor: singing male, Bwlch y Sarnau, 7th May (R. Knight).



Red-breasted Flycatcher (126, 64, 4)

Ficedula parva

Gwybedog Brongoch

Breeds from southern Sweden south to Austria and Bulgaria eastwards across Siberia. Winters in Pakistan, India and southeast Asia.

Caernarfon: adult, Bardsey, 5th June (SV Hinde et al).

1st CY, Great Orme. 28th – 29th Sept (photo D. Williams)

Pembroke: 1st CY, Skomer, 3rd Oct (JW Moss et al).

1st CY, Skokholm, 6th Oct (RD Brown et al).

Photo opposite.



Red-flanked Bluetail (0, 2, 1)

Tarsiger cyanurus

Cynffonlas Ystsgoch

Small population breeds NE Finland but main range extends through cool temperate forests of N Eurasia from E Russia & Siberia to Kamchatka, N Japan & NE China. Winters S China, Taiwan & S Japan through SE Asia to N Peninsula Thailand. Distinctive race *rufilatus* of Himalayas & W China, sometimes treated as distinct species, descends to lower elevations during winter.)

Caernarfon: female/ 1st CY, Bardsey, 25th Oct (SD Stansfield, S. Walton).

The only other Welsh records were from Bardsey on 1st Oct. 2007 and Skomer, Pembroke on 25th Oct 2010.



Steve Stansfield

Common Rosefinch (39, 108, 4)

Carpodacus erythrurus

Llinos Goch

Breeds from Germany and southern Sweden eastwards to Kamchatka and from Georgia eastwards to central China. Has bred in Britain on a few occasions. Winters in India, southeast Asia and southern China.

Caernarfon: male, Bardsey, 7th June (SV Hinde et al).

Pembroke: immature, Skomer 13th & 14th June (JW Moss).

female / immature, trapped, Skokholm, 11th June (RD Brown).

1st CY, Skomer 14th Oct (JW Moss), photo opposite.



Serin (14, 13, 1)

Serinus serinus

Llinos Frech

Breeds continental Europe, Turkey and northwest Africa. Winters mainly in southern Europe.

Caernarfon: male, Bardsey, 18th Sept (SD Stansfield).

The last two Welsh records were also from this island, in 2006.

***Cretzschmar's Bunting* (0, 0, 1)**

Emberiza caesia

Bras Cretzschmar

Breeds SE Europe & SW Asia from Albania & S Greece through S Turkey & Cyprus to N Israel & W Jordan.

Winters NE Africa.

Caernarfon: 2nd CY male, Bardsey, 10th – 20th June (E. Lewis, SD Stansfield et al). Photo below B. Porter.
First record for Wales and only the 6th for Britain.



***Black-headed Bunting* (11, 16 , 2)**

Emberiza melanocephala

Bras Penddu

Breeds C Italy to Greece, Turkey, N Iraq, W Iran & N through Caucasus to Ukraine & S Russia. Winters W & C India.

Pembroke: male, Skomer 7th June
(S. Riedlinger, photo right).

Another male, Saundersfoot 10th June
(D. Lowe, photo below right).

A third, at St. Justinian's 29th June
(C & W Williams photo below left).

BBRC has assumed that the Skomer and
Saundersfoot bird are the same.



Ortolan Bunting (105, 59, 6)

Emberiza hortulana

Bras y Gerdji

Breeds continental Europe and Fenno-Scandia eastwards to northern Iran and Mongolia. Winters south Arabia and Sahel zone of the south Sahara.

Pembroke: Skokholm, 20th May (RD Brown).

Caernarfon: three, Bardsey, 9th – 13th Sept (BJ Porter, SD Stansfield et al). Photo below.

Two others, Bardsey, 15th Sept (SD Stansfield).



Little Bunting (11, 15, 1)

Emberiza pusilla

Bras Lleiaf

A rare visitor to Wales.

E. Glamorgan: Forest Farm, 5th Feb – 7th Apr (M. Powell, D. Gilmore, P. Lansdown et al). Photo below.



Records of former WRP species, removed from list prior to 2015:

Great White Egret

2014 Meirionnydd: Llyn Tegid, 15th Aug – 9th Sept (B. Taylor, J. Dustow).

2014 Flint: Connah's Quay, from 1st Aug (P. Haslam). Predates other records from the Dee.

APPENDIX I - List of records that were deemed NOT PROVEN

Many of the records were not accepted because the Panel/BBRC were not convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were the Panel satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Species	Site	County	Date
Great Shearwater	Morfa Bychan	Caernarfon	12/5/15
Macaronesian Shearwater	Skokholm	Pembroke	27/8/2000
Purple Heron	Darowen	Montgomery	1st week Jan 2014
Golden Eagle	Llanbedr-y-Cennin	Denbigh	15/03/2015
Rough-legged Buzzard	WWT Penclacwydd	Carmarthen	03/11/2015
American Herring Gull	Burry Holm	Gower	5/1/14
Ring-billed Gull	Connah's Quay	Flint	29/8/15
Spanish Wagtail	Skomer	Pembroke	15/5/14
Two-barred Crossbill	Lake Vyrnwy	Montgomery	20/1/15

APPENDIX II - List of records that have been PENDED for more information or requiring further assessment.

Richardson's Cackling Goose	Llanishen Resr, Cardiff	East Glamorgan	22/4/2012
Cackling Goose	Llangorse Lake	Brecon	1/2/2010
Cackling Goose	RSPB Ynys-hir	Ceredigion	1/10/2011
Macaronesian Shearwater	Wylfa Head	Anglesey	28/8/2006
Macaronesian Shearwater	Strumble Head	Pembroke	25/10/2000
Macaronesian Shearwater	Strumble Head	Pembroke	31/8/15
Royal Tern	Mumbles, Swansea	Gower	21/12/1987
Thayer's Gull	Burry Holm	Gower	4-19/1/2014
Scan. Willow Warbler	Bardsey	Caernarfon	20/4/ 2007